

logical note "Among herbage in woods, not common" is not typical of *P. chrysomela*, which is a saltmarsh species. Possibly the matter could be resolved by reference to the Kirby collection (in British Museum (Natural History)). Dillwyn's *Materials for a fauna and flora of Swansea and the neighbourhood* (1848) does not mention *P. sericeus*, an indication in itself, since this list records only the rarer species of Coleoptera and might have included *P. sericeus* Schaller if Dillwyn's insect had really been that species.

J. C. Dale was another early entomologist who was supposed to have taken *P. sericeus*; but his record from Glanville's Wootton, Dorset, has never been confirmed (Pearce, E. J., 1926, *Proc. Dorset nat. Hist. antiq.Fld. Club*, 47: 51-128).

A record of the weevil from Folly Farm, Marlborough, North Wiltshire is included in the anonymous *Handlist of the Coleoptera of the Marlborough district* (1939) and may or may not be genuine.

Besides the Hampshire localities mentioned by Mr. Allen, all of which are in the northern vice-county, there are two records from the southern one. Forbes (1874, *Entomologist*, 7: 112) took *P. sericeus* in Crab(b) Wood, Winchester, and Killington (1927, *Trans. Hamps. ent. Soc.*, 3: 45-50) found it at Baddesley (near Romsey).

Finally, I must comment on Mr. Allen's supposition that *P. sericeus* is excessively local in Kent. The occurrence on one particular cherry tree in the late Dr. A. M. Masee's garden has the ring of a true "Dr. Masee story" about it, but whether this should be regarded as a leg-pull or hyperbole emphasising the rarity of the weevil is not for me to say. However, Dr. Masee himself (1948, *Rep. E. Malling Res. Stn.* for 1947, 136) recorded *P. sericeus* as "locally common on fruit trees, also plentiful on strawberry" and also referred to it on cherry (1946, *ibid.* for 1945, 92-3). I found *P. sericeus* several times in Oaken Wood, East Malling, in 1960 and 1961, most plentifully on 30th June, 1961, and mostly by beating Hazel. It occurred occasionally on apple trees in the "Upper Grub" orchard of East Malling Research Station in 1959, 1960 and 1961. I also took a specimen on the North Downs at Shoreham on 13th June, 1959.

In summary, *P. sericeus* has been reliably recorded from five vice-counties: East Sussex (where I, too, have taken it with Mr. P. J. Hodge), East Kent, North and South Hampshire, and South Wiltshire. The North Wiltshire record perhaps needs to be confirmed. — Dr. M. G. MORRIS, Orchard House, 7 Clarence Road, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2HF.

AUTOGRAPHA GAMMA L. AND NOMOPHILA NOCTUELLA D. & S. IN S. DEVON IN 1977. — *A. gamma* totals were: 1st-30th June (m.v. trap in use 27 nights), 11; July (29 nights), 61, with 10 on 13th; August (23 nights), 93, with 16 on 20th. Total, 1st June to 24th August, 165. *N. noctuella*: total nil. These totals are the lowest I have ever recorded. — H. L. O'HEFFERNAN, c/o 12 Frith Road, Rondebosch 7700, S. Africa.